

EXHIBIT A

ABSTRACT

~~The invention of this patent is a process to electronically automate the sorting of chicken feet in the category of edible or inedible. The invention employs electronic sensors and a programmable logic card to maintain the identity between all processed chickens and their respective feet. When the processed chickens are inspected by the USDA or plant quality inspectors, a determination is made as to whether the respective feet from the chicken are edible or inedible. If the feet are inedible, the inspector presses a button that interfaces with the subject invention and the status of the feet are electronically set to inedible. The system matches the inedible feet to the processed chicken. In this way, the feet and associated processed chicken are electronically maintained by means of the subject invention.~~

Photoelectric and inductive sensors are placed along a picking and eviscerating chicken lines. The sensors detect the location of a chicken bird in a shackle and its associated feet, also in a shackle. The sensors communicate this information to a programmable logic card. An inspection button also communicates information to the programmable logic card. Medal flags are attached to a shackle to allow for an easier way for the sensors to determine the locations of the chicken bird and its associated feet.